

## HOUSE RENTALS

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COHASSET — Three bedroom custom cape. Family room, garage, excellent condition. \$650/month plus utilities. Available immediately. References.

NO. SCITUATE — Two bedroom contemporary, plus office and den, loads of room. \$500/month plus utilities. References.

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**Century 21**  
WAYNE SAWCHUK, REALTOR

## Sewer System

(continued from page 3)  
with a sewer.

A few years ago, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act. The federal government is determined that pollution of the country must be prevented. One thing is certain and sure. It is that Cohasset is going to have a sewage system and wastewater treatment plant. The sewer commissioners acting for the town contracted with Metcalf and Eddy Engineers to perform Step 1 which would be the selection of a site for a treatment plant. No site has been decided upon because abutters have vetoed every suggestion. Step 2 would be to prepare plans for the treatment plant and main sewer pipe. But Step 2 cannot be taken until a site is chosen. Therefore the situation is stuck. If a few abutters are obstructive, their lands will have to be taken by eminent domain because a highly important town project must not be prevented.

The preparation of plans for a treatment plant and sewer pipes will depend upon how many streets will be sewer and what will be the capacity of the treatment plant. So far as possible the disposal of wastewater should be accomplished by the septic tanks and cesspools of individual houses. Some are now inadequate or can not be made to work so that a connection to a sewer pipe is unavoidable.

To find the answer to the problem it is necessary to know about the sewage disposal arrangements of every house in town. A complete survey should be made and a report prepared to determine what streets require sewer pipes or "laterals" and what streets do not need to be

sewered. The cost to the town will depend upon such a report. It will be the function of the Board of Health to prepare such a comprehensive report. At present the Board of Health has a health agent who is Kevin O'Brien. he investigates the operation of septic tanks of existing houses and makes perk tests of house lots where new houses are proposed.

The job of preparing a report to cover the whole town will be more than one man can handle. Another person is needed besides Kevin O'Brien. More money for the Board of Health will be needed so that an article will have to be prepared for the warrant at next town Meeting, or the Advisory Board will have to authorize increased expenditure. Another member is needed for the Board of Health to handle the situation. The Board of Health has jurisdiction over septic tanks, cesspools and pipes located more than 10 feet from a house. Drain piping inside of houses and within 10 feet outside of houses is the province of the plumbing inspector, who is associated with the town's building inspector.

The quantity of wastewater to be disposed of by septic tanks and leaching beds could be reduced by providing dry wells into which to conduct water from shower baths and bathtubs, which is called grey water because it is only very slightly polluted. Drain from washing machines could also be piped to dry wells from which it could gradually soak into the ground. The detergents in the water from washing machines are easily handled by the sewage treatment process, but sludge from detergents would have to be

removed from a dry well occasionally.

Naturally Cohasset would like to avoid as much expense as possible in the cost and operation of its sewage treatment plant. Some study will be needed to determine how many Cohasset streets should be sewer. It is understood that Scituate intends to sewer all its streets.

The net cost to the town of the wastewater disposal system will be reduced by a large contribution by the Federal Government represented in Massachusetts by the Department of Water Pollution Control, 110 Tremont St., Boston. It is understood that the Federal Government will pay for the treatment plant and main pipes, but not the laterals and not operating costs. It is also understood that the federal contribution will be 75 percent of the cost. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will contribute 15 percent. That will leave 10 percent to be paid by the town. An attempt has been made to calculate how much money will be paid by the town but the attempt has not succeeded. The state's share in the cost will be determined by the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering of which Mr. Thomas McLaughlin is acting commissioner.

The terms of some of the sewer commissioners will soon expire so that more people are needed to take an interest in the problem of wastewater disposal and to cooperate with Metcalf and Eddy. The project must go forward.

Cohasset has an immediate need for a third member of its Board of Health. This article is being written hoping that someone will volunteer.



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COHASSET OFFICE

## CAPE

## COD



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